

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /076 W

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O R 091400Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7376

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USUN NY 2090

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GB, US

SUBJ: NEXT STEPS IN ANGOLA: GOG VIEWS

REF: STATE 030983, STATE 031037

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFTELS, I STRESSED TO GOG FONMIN
OKUMBA MORNING FEBRUARY 9 THAT US POLICY IN ANGOLA
WAS NOT CHANGED EITHER BY SECRETARY'S SAN FRANCISCO
SPEECH OR BY HIS MEETING WITH FMG COMMISSIONER GARBA.

2. OKUMBA SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE OUR ASSURANCE,
AS MANY PEOPLE HAD INDEED INTERPRETED SECRETARY'S
SPEECH AS ADMISSION THAT SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAS LOST.
APPEARING AS IT DID IN WAKE OF SPEECH, GARBA'S

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ASSERTION OF US READINESS TO COME TO TERMS WITH MPLA

APPEARED UNCOMFORTABLY CREDIBLE, AND HAD SPURRED FRESH CONCERN OVER USG POSITION.

3. OKUMBA WONDERED, HOWEVER, HOW MUCH USG WAS REALLY PREPARED TO DO AT THIS POINT IN SUPPORT OF FNLA/UNITA FORCES. IT SEEMED TO HIM, OKUMBA SAID, THAT SITUATION COULD ONLY BE REDRESSED BY INCREASED US CONTRIBUTION TOO ANTI-MPLA ELEMENTS, BUT HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES. OKUMBA ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT HE FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT USG COULD NOT FIND SOME SOURCE OF FUNDS WHICH WAS NOT SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL VETO, DESPITE REPEATED EXPLANATIONS I HAD GIVEN HIM OF HOW USG WORKS.

4. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MEETING TO ASK OKUMBA WHETHER REFERENCE TO ANGOLA IN ROUTING COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING FEB. 7 MEETING OF GOG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS FORESHADOWING SHIFT IN GOG STANCE. (ANGOLAN SECTION HAD NOTED, IN TERMS REMINISCENT PARAGRAPH 2 STATE 031037, THAT COURSE OF ARMS SEEMINGLY FAVORED MPLA AND THAT LATTER NOW HAD RECOGNITION FROM MAJORITY OF OAU MEMBERS STATES REQUIRED TO GAIN OAU MEMBERSHIP AT NEXT CM MEETING.) OKUMBA SAID THAT REFERENCE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN FACTUAL REPORT ON ANGOLAN SITUATION AS SEEN BY GOG, AND LIKE SECRETARY'S SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN ANY CHANGE IN GOG POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR FNLA/UNITA.

5. WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO OAU SITUATION, OKUMBA SAID HE HAD RECENTLY REREAD BASIC OAU DOCUMENTS AND HAD RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY TO BLOCK MPLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE LATE FEB. CM HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY TANZANIAN OBJECTION, SO THAT MPLA SEEMED LIKELY TO GAIN ADDITIONAL STATUS OF OAU MEMBERSHIP BEFORE END OF THIS MONTH.

6. AS FOR NEXT STEPS BY GABON AND LIKE-MINDED STATES, OKUMBA COMMENTED WRONGLY THAT PLANNING IS STYMIED BY FACT GOG STILL DOES NOT KNOW WHAT MOBUTU INTENDS TO DO. GOG ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO INTENSIVE CONSULTATION

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AMONG STATES STILL SEEKING TO HOLD LINE AGAINST MPLA AND ITS SOVIET AND CUBAN BACKERS, BUT MOBUTU HAS BEEN TOTALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE FOR SOME TIME. THUS, GOG, WHICH CONSIDERS THAT ZAIRE MUST TAKE LEAD IN FORMULATING TACTICS BECAUSE OF ITS FRONT-LINE POSITION, IS AT A LOSS AS TO NEXT STEPS TO TAKE.

7. IN FINAL OBSERVATION, OKUMBA REMARKED THAT HE HAD

READ WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST REFERENCE IN SECRETARY'S
SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH (COPY OF WHICH I HAD GIVEN HIM
FEBRUARY 6) TO IMPORTANCE OF USG ASSISTANCE FOR NEARBY
COUNTRIES THREATENED BY MASSIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN
PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. OKUMBA CLEARLY ASSUMED THAT THIS
WAS INTENDED TO COVER GABON AS WELL AS IMMEDIATELY
NEIGHBORING STATES OF ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, AND INDICATED
PARTICULAR PLEASURE THAT SECRETARY HAD AGAIN DEMONSTRATED
SYMPATHETIC AWARENESS OF SECURITY PROBLEMS FACED BY GOG.STEIGMAN

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